

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

In re:	)	Case No. 23-30352
	)	(Chapter 11)
DRAIN SERVICES INC.	)	
	)	
Debtor.	)	
_____	)	

**APPLICATION TO APPROVE EMPLOYMENT OF MAURICE  
B. VERSTANDIG, ESQ. AND THE DAKOTA BANKRUPTCY FIRM AS  
GENERAL REORGANIZATION COUNSEL TO ABOVE-CAPTIONED DEBTOR**

Comes now Drain Services Inc. (“Drain Services” or the “Debtor”), pursuant to Sections 327 and 329 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), as well as Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2014, and applies to engage Maurice B. VerStandig, Esq. and The Dakota Bankruptcy Firm (collectively, “Counsel”), as general reorganization counsel to the Debtor, and in support thereof states as follows:

1. This case was commenced when the Debtor filed a petition for Chapter 11 relief, pursuant to Section 301 of the Bankruptcy Code, on October 2, 2023.
2. The Debtor is, and at all times relevant has been, a debtor in possession.
3. Approval is instantly sought of Counsel’s employment to provide the following services to the Debtor as general reorganization counsel:
  - a. Prepare and file all necessary pleadings, motions, and other court papers, on behalf of the Debtor;
  - b. Negotiate with creditors and other interested parties;
  - c. Represent the Debtor in any adversary proceedings, contested matters, and other proceedings before this Honorable Court;
  - d. Prepare a plan of reorganization on behalf of the Debtor; and

e. Tend to such other and further matters as are necessary and appropriate in the prism of this case.

4. Counsel does not represent any other person or entity in connection with this case, and both Counsel and its principal are disinterested as that term is used in Section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code. Counsel is not a creditor or an insider of the Debtor; was not, within two years before the date of the petition for relief, a director, officer, or employee of the Debtor; and does not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the estate or any class of creditors or equity holders, by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in, the Debtor (or for any other reason). Further, Counsel holds no interest adverse to the interests of the Debtor in connection with any of the matters for which employment is sought.

5. Counsel has no legal connection with the Debtor, the creditors herein, or any other parties in interest, nor with their respective counsel, nor with the United States Trustee or any person employed in the office of the United States Trustee, except as expressly disclosed in the affidavit of Maurice B. VerStandig attached hereto.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, Counsel does *not* represent the equity interest of the Debtor. It is reasonably believed that the equity interest will be represented by separate counsel.

7. Counsel has agreed to represent the Debtors at the reduced rate of Three Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$300.00) per hour for partner time, Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$200.00) per hour for associate time, and One Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$100.00) per hour for paralegal time; it is respectfully suggested these proposed rates are fair and reasonable, and these rates are consistent with the skills and reputation of Counsel and its principal attorney.

8. The Debtors have also agreed to provide compensation to Counsel in the manner set forth in the Disclosure of Compensation filed in this case. All compensation sought in this

matter will be subject to the review and approval of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of North Dakota.

9. Attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference, is the declaration of Maurice B. VerStandig, Esq. in support of this application.

10. Attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference, is an engagement agreement entered into between the Debtor and Counsel prior to the commencement of these cases.

WHEREFORE, the Debtor respectfully prays this Honorable Court (i) enter an order approving the employment of Maurice B. VerStandig, Esq. and The Dakota Bankruptcy Firm as general reorganization counsel to the Debtor; and (ii) afford such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 2, 2023

By: /s/ Maurice B. VerStandig  
Maurice B. VerStandig, Esq.  
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mac@dakotabankruptcy.com  
*Proposed Counsel for the Debtor*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 2nd day of October, 2023, a copy of the foregoing was served electronically upon filing via the ECF system.

/s/ Maurice B. VerStandig  
Maurice B. VerStandig